

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EA-11 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /106 W

----- 017736

R 050646Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8810

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NP, SK

SUBJECT: NEPALESE VIEW OF SIKKIMESE EVENTS

1. WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS BY THE ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE OF REPORTING IN THE NEPALESE PRESS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SIKKIM. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT ABSENCE OF REPORTING REFLECTS DIRECT PALACE GUIDANCE TO LOCAL JOURNALISTS. NONETHELESS, REPORTING IN INDIAN PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT IS AVIDLY READ HERE, AND IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE NOTED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SIKKIM AND ITS PROBLEMS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRINCIPAL GON CONCERN IS THAT SIKKIM WILL NOW BECOME SANCTUARY FOR NCP ACTIVITIES BECAUSE OF PAST AND PRESENT TIES BETWEEN NCP AND SIKKIM POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

2. MOST SOPHISTICATED NEPALESE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN POLITICS IN SIKKIM AND NEPAL. NONETHELESS, THERE WILL BE SOME CONCERN THAT EVENTS IN GANGTOK REPRESENT DIRECT INDIAN INTERVENTION IN NEIGHBORING HIMALAYAN PRINCIPALITY, AND NEPALESE ARE ALWAYS QUICK TO DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THEIR OWN SITUATION AND THOSE OF OTHER HIMALAYAN STATES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CHINESE EMBASSY HERE IS FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY AND REPORTEDLY IS EXPRESSING CONCERN AT ENHANCED INDIAN ROLE IN THAT STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT BORDERING STATE.

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CARGO

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NNN

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